

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR Listed 1-21-04

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Tharp House

other names/site number WA0054

2. Location

street & number 15 North West Avenue

☐ not for publication

city or town Fayetteville

☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR County Washington code 129 zip code 72701

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

I, the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐
request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Cassie Matthews
Signature of certifying official/Title

12/04/03
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional
comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National
Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Tharp House
Name of Property

Washington County, Arkansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

0

buildings

Sites

structures

objects

1

0

Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete block; Stone/sandstone

walls Wood/weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Tharp House
Name of Property

Washington County, Arkansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☒ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1904

Significant Dates

1904

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☒ previously listed in the National Register

☒ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State Agency

☐ Federal Agency

☐ Local Government

☐ University

☒ Other

Name of repository:

Shiloh Museum of Ozark History

Tharp House
Name of Property

Washington County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 395035 3991390
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____
☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph Wilcox
Organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date August 8, 2003
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9787
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Bob and Patty Besom
street & number 15 North West Avenue telephone 479-442-9208
city or town Fayetteville state AR zip code 72701

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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SUMMARY

The one and a half story frame Tharp House is situated on a sloping lot on the west side of North West Avenue in downtown Fayetteville, between the Square and the University of Arkansas and near the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad station. The house has an asymmetrical Queen Anne-style floor plan and modest Colonial Revival-style decorative details. It has a cross-gable plan and wraparound porch. It shares the West Avenue portion of Block 21 with three other residences (two converted into offices).

ELABORATION

Front/East Façade

The front façade of the house faces east, and is composed of four bays. The main entrance to the house is located in the center bay of the facade, and leads into the center hall of the house. There is also a recessed entrance on the front facade of the house, and it is located in the southern bay of this façade. The northern bay of the facade is comprised of one wood-framed, double-hung, nine-over-two window. Another wood-framed, casement, nine-over-two window is located to the left of the main entrance

A wrap-around porch begins at the left edge of the northeastern bay of this façade, and is supported by six Doric columns in all, three of which are on the east facade. The porch is covered in a shed roof.

The second floor of this facade features a centrally-located balcony which is covered by a gabled roof. The roof is supported by two hollow Doric columns. A balustrade is present as well.

Side/North Façade

The north facade of the house is composed of three bays. Each bay is comprised of one wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one window. A crawl space entrance fenestrates the middle bay. The western bay contains a small, two-paned window. The eastern bay of this facade is also comprised of the exterior entrance to the basement, as well as a small, two-paned window. The exterior walls of the north façade basement are made of rusticated cement block. This cement block is also on the east side and the north portion of the west side. The remainder of the foundation is made up of dressed rock.

A brick chimney is present in the center of the facade.

There is a dormer present in the center bay. It is covered in a gabled roof, and is comprised of a pair of wood-framed, hinged windows.

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Rear/West Façade

The west facade is composed of three bays. The northern bay of this façade is comprised of one wood-framed, double-hung, four-over-four window. The basement level of this section is comprised of a wood-framed, two-paned window.

The center bay is comprised of one wood-framed, two-paned window on the basement level, two wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one windows on the main level of the house, and a dormer at the second floor level. The dormer is covered by a gabled roof, and a wood-framed, hinged window.

The southern bay of the west facade is comprised of the rear porch. The original rear enclosed porch was replaced in 1990, with the new enclosed porch being slightly larger than the original, and the original windows being replaced with a bay of four modern, wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one windows.

Side/South Façade

The south facade is composed of three bays. The western bay is comprised of a single wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one window.

The middle bay is comprised of one wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one window. There are four wooden steps leading up to the porch.

The eastern bay of this facade is comprised of the south side of the wrap around porch. This side of the porch is supported by three Doric columns, and is covered by a shed roof.

There is a pair of wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one windows directly to the east of the side entrance. A few feet east of this window pairing is a single wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one window.

A dormer is present on the second floor of the south facade, which is comprised of a wood-framed, hinged window. The dormer is covered by a shed roof.

Interior

The interior floor plan of the Tharp House is dominated by central halls connected by a single flight of stairs. The stair banister is supported by turned balusters and is anchored by newel posts modestly embellished on three sides by a "bull's-eye" above two recessed panels. The downstairs hall, with windows at each end, has nine interior doors connected by wainscoting. The doors open to seven rooms, an under-the-stairs closet, and the basement. Three downstairs rooms—kitchen, bathroom, and dining

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room—have wainscoting. The other four downstairs rooms—a living room, two bedrooms, and an office—have 9½-inch baseboards.

The upstairs hall has a window and three doors opening into three rooms. One room has five additional doors opening into a closet, two garrets, the upstairs porch, and a bedroom. The two upstairs bedrooms each have doors into garrets, for a total of four garrets.

Most of the house retains its original unaltered fabric. Many of the elements include original finishes as well. The Tharp House has most of its original wood floors, lath and plaster walls, 10-foot ceilings, and door, window, and bathroom hardware. There are 10 transoms, 22 four-panel doors, seven outside doors (four with lights; three solid—in the basement), three screen doors, and four closets. One room still has a linoleum rug; another is lit by a bare bulb hanging from the ceiling, probably unchanged since the house was first wired. Two doors have interesting original polychrome paint schemes.

The unfinished, dirt-floor basement includes a brick root cellar and fixed windows to the north and west.

Integrity

The Tharp House retains excellent architectural integrity, and closely reflects the time of its construction in 1904. The house retains all but four of its original windows, and all of the entrances are intact, and the original floor plan remains intact as well.

Jamie Brandon and James Davidson, doctoral candidates in archaeology at the University of Arkansas, studied the house in an effort to understand construction of the building. They identified a “general pattern of reuse throughout the house.” The rock portion of the foundation, and the brick root cellar were part of an earlier structure on the site (there as late as 1904 according to a Sanborn Insurance Co. map). While the Tharp House was obviously constructed “of a piece” and according to one plan, there is a vernacular quality to the workmanship. Additionally, there is a significant amount of reused materials: windows, doors, decking for shingles, and structural supports in the basement (hand-hewn timbers that had served as floor joists in some other building).

The house is surrounded by early landscape elements. There is a small retaining wall to the east, a path to the south, barbeque pit to the west, and driveway to the north, all of sandstone. Maples and a sweet gum, planted by the Tharps, are now mature trees that offer significant shade on two sides.

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SUMMARY

Built in 1904 for the Moses Tharp Family, the Queen Anne home at 15 North West Avenue in Fayetteville, is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As a result, it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance**.

ELABORATION

In 1870, Moses Tharp, a Confederate veteran of the Civil War, married Alla Jane Thomas and moved to her family farm on Old Farmington Road outside Fayetteville. When the couple grew old, Moses and Alla Jane decided to move to town. According to family tradition, the couple had the Tharp House constructed in 1904. A different house seems to be represented on the Fayetteville Sanborn Insurance Company map dated June 1904, but it is possible that the house was constructed during the second half of 1904. The 1904 Fayetteville business directory and newspaper accounts support this conclusion. The Tharp House is clearly represented on the July 1908 Sanborn Insurance map.

In spite of his advanced age (65 in 1904), Moses Tharp continued to work. He constructed an urban farmstead on the place, including sheds, a shelter for his livestock, and a garden. Moses made a living by hitching up his horses to a wagon and taking it to the nearby train station where he picked up and delivered freight and passengers. Indeed, railroad activities dominated the life of the Tharp House and its working-class neighborhood, where Frisco brakemen, baggagemen, and firemen made their homes. There was a boarding house for railroad workers next door to the south. The tracks of the shortline Pacific & Greater Eastern were contiguous to the west. Additionally, rail-related enterprises (cooper shop, ice house, wholesalers, warehouses) filled the quarter-mile to the north, between the Tharp House and the Frisco station.

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Moses and Alla Jane had ten children. Most of them were grown and on their own when the Tharp House was built, but they returned to visit, get married, give birth, convalesce, and even die in the house. The *Fayetteville Democrat* reported on February 18, 1905, that son John had arrived at his parents on "15 North West street." This is the earliest documentation of the Tharp family at the site. The *Fayetteville Democrat* mentioned the site again on April 6, 1905:

Tuesday afternoon about 2:30 o'clock fire broke out in the residence of Mr. M.B. Tharp, 15 S. (sic) West Street. The fire started from a defective flue. Only a short while before it broke out, a fire was started in the rear sitting room and it was probably from this that sparks fell to the roof and started a flame. The entire rear part of the house was damaged but most of the effects were saved.

There are still charred timbers that support the roof on the west side of the house that may be visible reminders of that fire.

In 1920, Jane Fincher, a widow, and her daughters, Olive and Ella, bought the John S. Vest house (NR, 1979) next door. After Moses and Alla Jane Tharp died in the 1920s, their youngest child, George, stayed in the Tharp House and, in 1933, married his neighbor, Ella Fincher. George and Ella both worked outside the home. In the 1920s, George was a truck driver for the Frisco railroad, continuing to connect the house and family with the transportation system that dominated the era. In the 1930s, George became a shipping clerk for the Ozark Wholesale Grocery on Dickson Street, two blocks north of the Tharp House, and Ella worked in various retail shops on the Fayetteville Square, four blocks away. The couple raised a garden (and caught and dressed chickens that escaped from the nearby poultry processing plant!). By 1939, they had saved enough money to purchase the interest of George's siblings in the Tharp House.

George died in 1966; Ella died 14 years later. In 1981, Ella's family sold the house and much of its contents to Bob and Patty Besom. Among the contents were Ella's daily diaries, scores of photographs, and furnishings that had been part of Moses and Alla Jane's household.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1904 for the Moses Tharp Family, the Queen Anne home at 15 North West Avenue in Fayetteville, is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As a result, it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance**.

Tharp House
Name of Property

Washington County
County

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

"An Agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage"

Arkansas Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Major Bibliographical References

Barrett, Kenneth. "The Tharp House as I Remember it," an essay written by a great-grandson of Moses and Alla Tharp, July 13, 1992. Copies available from owners of the Tharp House.

Campbell, William S. *One Hundred Years of Fayetteville, 1828-1928*. Fayetteville: Privately published, 1928.

Fayetteville, Arkansas. Greer Abstract Company. "Abstract of Title to Part of Block 21, Original Town of Fayetteville, Arkansas."

Fayetteville City Directories: 1904 Through 1983.

Fayetteville Democrat, February 18, 1905; April 6, 1905.

Insurance Maps of Fayetteville, Arkansas. New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1897, 1904, 1908, 1913, 1919, 1930.

Mary Frances Tharp, "Biography," a family history written for an assignment in a Fayetteville public schools English class, 1928. Copies available from owners of the Tharp House.

Plat Book of Washington Co., Arkansas. NorthWest Publishing Co., Des Moines, Iowa, 1908.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Approximately one acre; part of Block 21 in the Original Town of Fayetteville, described as follows: Beginning at a point 90 feet South of the Northeast corner of said Block, and running thence South 73 feet; thence West 278 feet, more or less, to the East right of way line of the old P. & G. E. Railroad; thence Northerly with the East right of way of said railroad 163 feet, more or less, to the North line of said block; thence East with the North line of said Block to a point 169 feet West of the Northeast corner of said Block; thence South 90 feet; thence East 169 feet to the point of beginning.

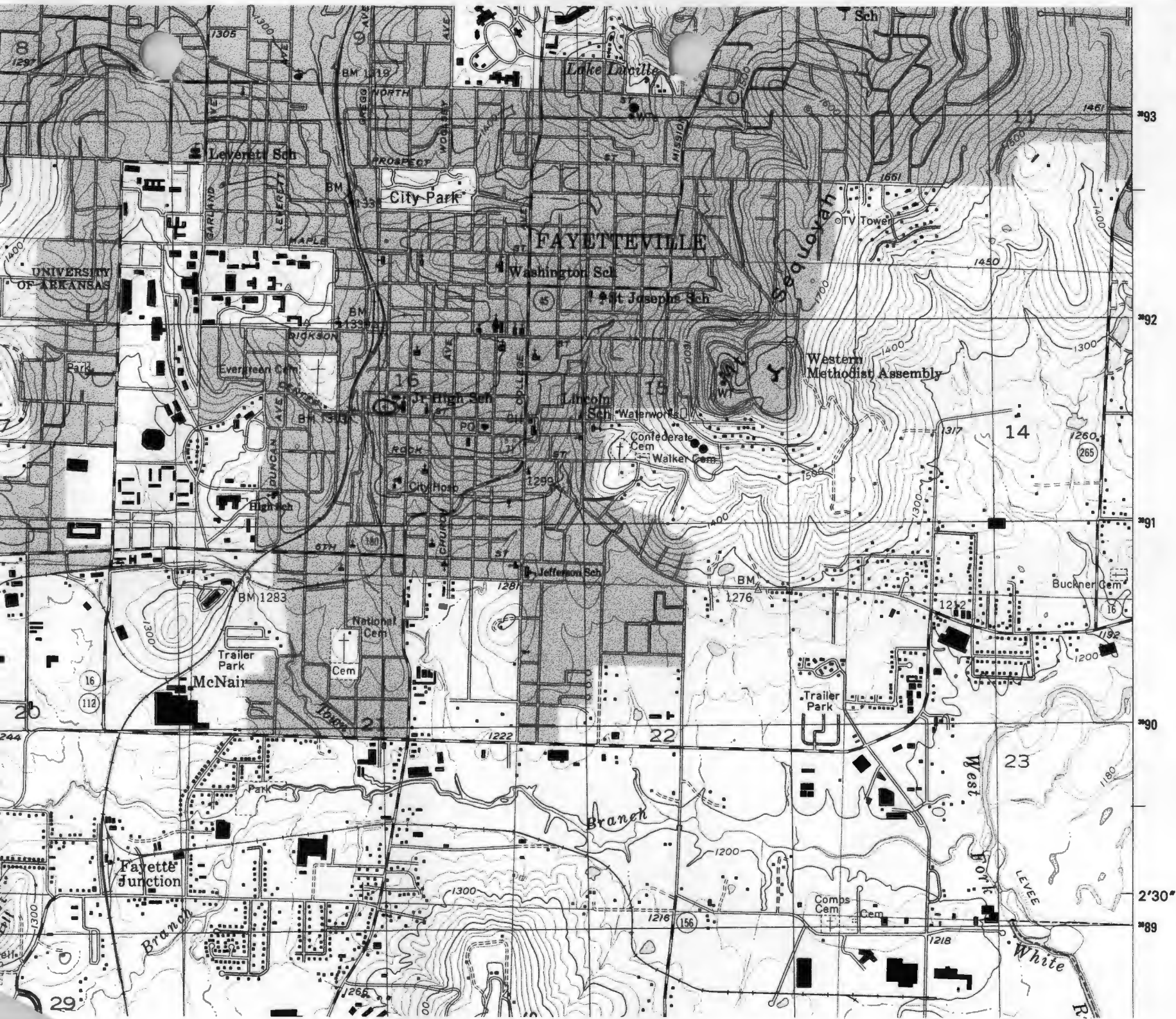
Boundary Justification

The boundary contains all property historically associated with this resource.









Harp House
Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas
15/395035/399139D